

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-9 and 11-20 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 9-11, 15, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 6,373,507 to Camara et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The claimed invention is directed to a system and method for a scanner to execute scanning processes using virtual hard disk device which is actually a scanner. First, the scanner presented as a virtual storage device (a virtual hard disk device with a disk legend E, "Scanner E:") is presented in the file management interface of the operating system (see the steps 31 and 32 of the specification and in Figure 3, and further shown the virtual hard disk device icon 41 in Figure 4). While the scanner conducts the scanning, the scanned image file is directly saved in the virtual hard disk device ("Scanner E:", as shown in Figure 4, legend 41). The user therefore is able to drag and drop the file in the disk device "Scanner E:" to any application program which supports the file management system, such as an email program, a chatting program or a fax interface. Furthermore, the virtual hard disk device can set to be accessible by other on-line users via network connection (see Figures 6 and 7, further in page 11, lines 5-19 of the specification). Therefore, the virtual hard disk device icon will show the allowed user over the network.

However, U.S. Patent 6,373,507 to Camara et al. is directed to a system for presenting a scanner to an image device on the interface of an operating system (see Figure 3, the "Imaging Device" icon 102, column 4, lines 44-45). Furthermore, the scanner icon 114 is presented in the menu interface shown as "Imaging Devices" at the upper left corner of Figure 4. In this case, the user clicks the scanner icon 104 for activating the scanner application software, which starts the software shown in Figures 5-7. Specifically, as described in Camara et al. in column 5, lines 31-39 and lines 62-67, the destination selection function 130 is for faxing, copying and "saving the image in a file" (line 34). It is the clear that scanner icon 114 of Camara et al. is merely a scanning image. Scanner icon 114 provides normal scanning functions, and is not a disk device. Besides, the "SAVE" option 138 of Camara et al. is to "direct the scanner to capture the image as

a file and store the file in the computer memory” (see column 5, lines 62-64). The SAVE option 138 is necessary for Camara et al. because the scanner icon 114 is an imaging(scanning) device. Therefore, the user chooses the SAVE option to save the scanned image to a computer memory.

As discussed above, Camara et al. discloses the scanner which provides a SAVE function. However, Camara et al. does not show or teach the scanner as presented as a disk device, and operated as a disk device. The scanner device icon of Camara et al. is a scanning device icon rather than a storage device icon. The scanned image file of Camara et al. is presented in “My Pictures” folder of Windows operating systems (see column 6, Table 1). The scanned image file of the present invention is saved in a disk device “Scanner E:”.

Camara et al. does not teach or disclose the claimed invention as claimed in claims 1, 9, 15. Particularly, “...a virtual hardware module having a virtual storage device...” as recited in claim 1, “ ...said scanner ... displayed as a virtual storage device icon in an operating system...” as recited in the original claim 9, and “...displaying a virtual hardware icon as a virtual storage device icon...” as recited in claim 15 are patentable. Therefore, claims 1, 9 and 15 are not anticipated by Camara et al. The rejection of independent claims 1, 9 and 15 should be withdrawn.

Due to the dependency on the independent claims 1, 9, 15, claims 2, 4-8, 11-14 and 16-20 are therefore patentable over Camara et al.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 9 and 15 along with the dependent claims are distinguishable over the applied art, and are not disclosed or taught or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited and appreciated.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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